

2007 California Five-Year Infrastructure Plan

SECTION FOUR | Infrastructure Needs & Proposed Funding by Agency & Department

Department of Fish and Game

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is responsible for managing California's fish, wildlife and plant resources, and the habitat on which they depend, for their ecological value and public enjoyment. Under general direction from the California Fish and Game Commission, the DFG administers numerous programs and enforces regulations and limits set forth in the Fish and Game Code. The major program areas are:

Biodiversity Conservation – This program encourages the preservation, conservation, and maintenance of wildlife resources. One component of this program is the review of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents. The DFG consults with lead and responsible agencies and provides the requisite biological expertise to review and comment upon environmental documents and impacts arising from project activities.

Hunting, Fishing and Public Use – This program helps provide for diverse and sustainable hunting, fishing, trapping, and other public uses, such as wildlife observation. Activities include collection and assessment of information on the distribution and abundance of game fish and other wildlife to determine the need for regulations (bag limits, gear restrictions, etc.) and to monitor the effects of those regulations.

Management of Department Lands and Facilities – This program manages department-owned or leased lands and facilities, including hatcheries, wildlife areas, ecological reserves, and public access areas. This program is responsible for administering the DFG's capital outlay program, as described in more detail below.

This program serves the public through hunter education and other conservation education programs, and promotes compliance with the laws and regulations that protect fish and wildlife resources, habitats, and public safety. The DFG's game wardens are the most visible example of this program.

Spill Prevention and Response – The objective of this program is to prevent damage, minimize impacts and restore and rehabilitate California's fish and wildlife populations and their habitats from the harmful effects of oil and other deleterious material spills in marine waters and inland habitats.

Existing Facilities: The DFG manages 711 properties statewide, comprising more than million acres (588,440 acres owned and 463,427 acres owned by other entities, but administered by DFG). Since several state agencies purchase land for the purpose of

habitat or wildlife protection, and management responsibilities of these properties are often transferred to the DFG, the number of properties is continually increasing. The 711 properties managed by the DFG include the following: 08 wildlife areas, 24 ecological reserves (which include conservation easements), marine reserves, 80 public access areas, 2 fish hatcheries, 230 lands that have not yet been designated, and 37 other types of properties. The DFG is working on a number of studies to inventory and evaluate existing infrastructure.

Drivers of Need: The three main drivers of capital outlay needs for the DFG are the improvement or replacement of aging buildings, the improvement of newly acquired lands, and more recently, the enactment of Assembly Bill 7 (AB 7) of 2005—Chapter 689, Statutes of 2005—which includes mandates for increased hatchery production levels.

Of the more than million acres of lands managed by DFG, over 829,000 acres are dedicated wildlife areas and ecological reserves throughout the state. By law, the DFG is required to protect, manage, and maintain the wildlife resources and habitats on land it owns or administers. New properties are likely to be added to the Department's stewardship in the years to come. However, because these lands are typically acquired by other state agencies, such as the Wildlife Conservation Board, land acquisitions that will likely result in future capital outlay needs are discussed in other sections of this report. This section deals with the needs of lands currently administered by the DFG, with the caveat that future needs will likely change as new lands are acquired by the state and administered by the DFG.

Many DFG-managed properties require capital outlay expenditures to upgrade old structures, improve existing facilities, or provide new infrastructure on properties that are receiving increased wildlife-related public use. Some important examples include additional comfort stations, public interpretive facilities, parking lot and road upgrades, new office space, water structure improvements to maintain or reestablish wetlands, and levee improvements.

The DFG currently operates 2 hatcheries statewide, including trout hatcheries, 8 salmon and steelhead hatcheries, and 2 fish planting bases, which range from 30 to 00 years old. While the 8 salmon and steelhead hatcheries are currently operated to mitigate the loss of natural spawning habitat, for which production levels are regulated by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the DFG has been responsible for setting production levels for the state trout hatcheries. Until recently, the production goals for the trout hatcheries have remained fairly constant.

The passage of AB 7 mandates that nearly one-third of the fees collected from the issuance of all sport fishing licenses be deposited in the Hatchery and Inland Fisheries Fund to be used for management, maintenance, and capital improvement of California's fish hatcheries, the Heritage and Wild Trout Program, other sport fishing activities, and enforcement of these activities. Furthermore, it establishes requirements for yearly increases to trout production through July , 2009.

Five-Year Needs: The DFG has requested approximately \$2.6million in capital outlay projects over the next five years for project planning, hatchery improvements, and various minor capital outlay projects. However, because the DFG has not completed a full analysis of its infrastructure needs, this plan may not accurately reflect the DFG's out-year needs. More refined needs will be included in the 2008 infrastructure plan.

The DFG has recently compiled a list of infrastructure and deferred maintenance needs, which was collected from the Department's various programs and was entered into its Engineering Five Year Planning Schedule (E FYPS) database. This database was developed by the Engineering Program and is used by the Engineering, Lands, and Hatcheries Programs to track and schedule projects identified by program staff in the field. Once the E-FYPS database can be properly analyzed, the DFG will be able to refine the needs included in this plan and develop the necessary level of project specific detail for inclusion in subsequent plans.

Funding Needs Reported by the Department of Fish and Game						
(Dollars in Thousands)						
Category Description	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	Total
Critical Infrastructure Deficiencies	\$6,615	\$2,573	\$1,897	\$160	\$160	\$11,405
Workload Space Deficiencies	1,200	0	0	0	0	1,200
Total	\$7,815	\$2,573	\$1,897	\$160	\$160	\$12,605

Proposal: The 2007 Plan proposes \$2.9million in 2007 08 for various minor capital outlay projects and project planning. It is recognized that the DFG has significant additional infrastructure needs; however, more detail and analysis is necessary before those actual needs can be adequately quantified. As the DFG develops the necessary level of project-specific detail, these needs should be captured in future plans.

Consistency with Chapter 1016, Statutes of 2002: This proposal is consistent with the planning provisions of Chapter 06, Statutes of 2002, as this plan includes minor funding for the renovation and development of facilities in areas served by existing infrastructure. Furthermore, as the DFG develops more detailed infrastructure needs, the DFG will consider these planning guidelines in the development of future infrastructure proposals.

Proposed Funding for the Department of Fish and Game						
(Dollars in Thousands)						
Category Description	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	Total
Critical Infrastructure Deficiencies	\$2,922	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,922
Total	\$2,922	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,922
Funding Source						
Special Fund	\$2,232	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,232
Other	690	0	0	0	0	690
Total	\$2,922	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,922